

What Is Your Life?

The Life Focus of a True Follower of Christ

James 4:13-17

Brief Background:

Author: James the half-brother of Christ and leader of the church in Jerusalem

Audience: Jews, James' brethren, scattered abroad

Purpose: To harshly, yet lovingly, test the faith of those who simply claimed to be believers in Christ but who where conformed to the world and bore no fruit to back up their claims.

Theme: A true follower of Jesus Christ will live a life consumed solely with a desire to do the will of God.

A True Follower of Christ will...

I. Not be consumed with a life of arrogant self-interest (v13)

- A. Consumed with where I want to go—*go into such a city*
- B. Consumed with how things will best fit into my life plans—*today or tomorrow...continue there a year*
- C. Consumed with what will best profit me financially—*buy and sell, and get gain*

II. Acknowledge the brevity of his life (v14)

- A. By acknowledging that life is uncertain—*ye know not what shall be on the morrow*
- B. By acknowledging that life is brief—*a vapor, that appeareth for a little time*
- C. By acknowledging that physical life will end—*vanisheth away*

III. Whole-heartedly seek the will of God for his life (v15)

- A. For daily existence—*We shall live*
- B. For daily activities—*We shall do this or that*

IV. Not live a life that wickedly rejoices in boasting (v16)

- A. *Rejoice in your boastings* = boasting in arrogance; loudly bragging about a lifestyle of pride, self-importance, and self-sufficiency
- B. *All such rejoicing is evil* = this empty, arrogant, foolish boasting is complete wickedness.

V. Live a life of purposeful obedience to God's revealed will (v17)

- A. *Knoweth to do good* = affirms and acknowledges God's will for a life that is right and morally excellent
- B. *Doeth it not* = knowingly and purposefully does not do God's will
- C. *To him it is sin* = outright wickedness

So What?

Where is your life focus?

Are you a true follower of Christ who...

- is not consumed with a life of arrogant self-interest
- acknowledges the brevity of life
- whole-heartedly seeks the will of God for his life
- does not live a life that wickedly rejoices in boasting
- lives a life of purposeful obedience to God's revealed will

Are you completely consumed with doing the will of God?